

The President's Daily Brief

16 January 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Reconstruction begins in Nigeria. (Page 1)

[redacted] Lebanon hopes to curb the fedayeen; and Britain brushes off Arab protests about sending tanks to Israel. (Page 2)

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[redacted] Soviet [redacted]
[redacted] (Page 4)

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The Chinese Communists may not really expect much to come out of talks with the US, but Peking is sure the Warsaw meetings will irritate the USSR. (Page 5)

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NIGERIA

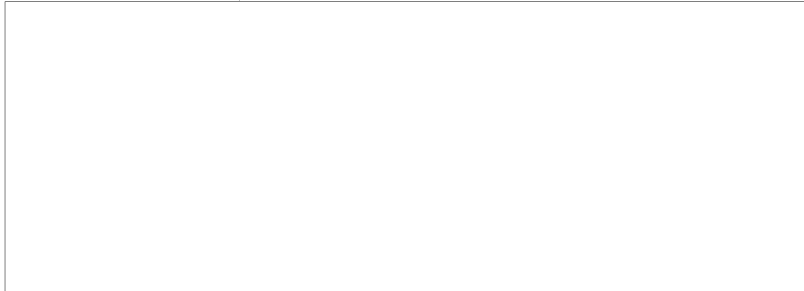
Ojukwu's successor, General Effiong, met yesterday with General Gowon and formally renounced secession. Gowon then declared a general amnesty for all those who had been "misled" into secession. Several secessionist civilian leaders, including Ibos, accompanied Effiong, but had no public part in the ceremony.

Gowon's major concern now seems to be to reassure Eastern tribesmen that there will be an equitable reconstruction. He is also keeping a close watch on foreign aid to the former Biafran region, restricting it to relief from the US, the UK, West Germany, and the USSR. Moscow must be asked, Nigerian officials have said, because of Soviet help during the war.

Meanwhile, there are conflicting reports on Ojukwu's whereabouts, with Gabon being at present the most likely haven. Wherever Ojukwu is, his statement yesterday--claiming Biafra will survive and calling for an international presence to prevent genocide--indicates he can still embarrass Gowon and may yet cause serious trouble.

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MIDDLE EAST



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In Lebanon, the government is seeking a way to control the Arab commandos. Minister Jumblatt is insisting the fedayeen evacuate all inhabited areas in southern Lebanon, and is threatening "punitive action" if they do not comply.

(continued)

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The British are selling at least 100 Centurion tanks to Israel to augment the 480 now in the Israeli inventory. Arab spokesmen have objected, of course, but the Foreign Office is replying, to the UAR at least, that Centurions have been going to Israel for the past five years on the basis of firm contracts and that the UK has no intention of applying an arms embargo in the Middle East.

The Arab outcry at this late date probably stems from Arab belief that Arab pressure caused the British refusal to sell the more formidable Chieftain tanks and the Arab hope that sufficient additional protest may cause a cancellation of the present arrangement.

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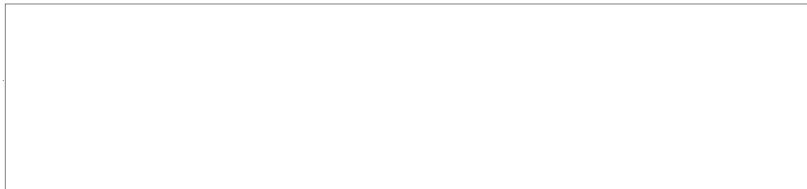
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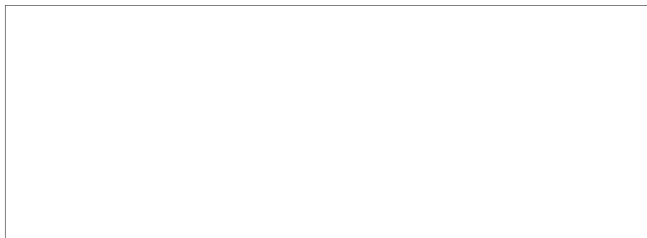
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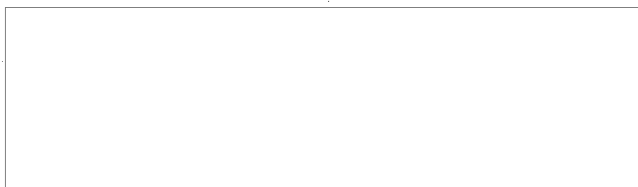
SOVIET UNION



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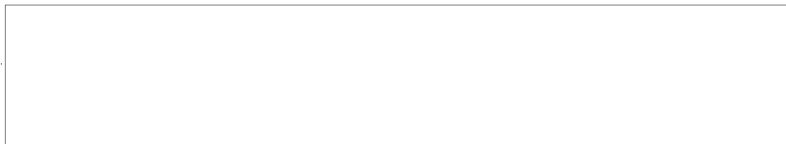
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COMMUNIST CHINA

Peking is setting the stage for the Sino-US talks in Warsaw scheduled for 20 January.

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Peking was particularly pleased with the resumption of the talks in Warsaw because they would have a "discomfiting effect" on the Soviets.

the Chinese probably do view the forthcoming Warsaw talks primarily as another aspect of the war of nerves with the Soviets. Nevertheless, Peking is also interested in assessing at closer range future US intentions in China.

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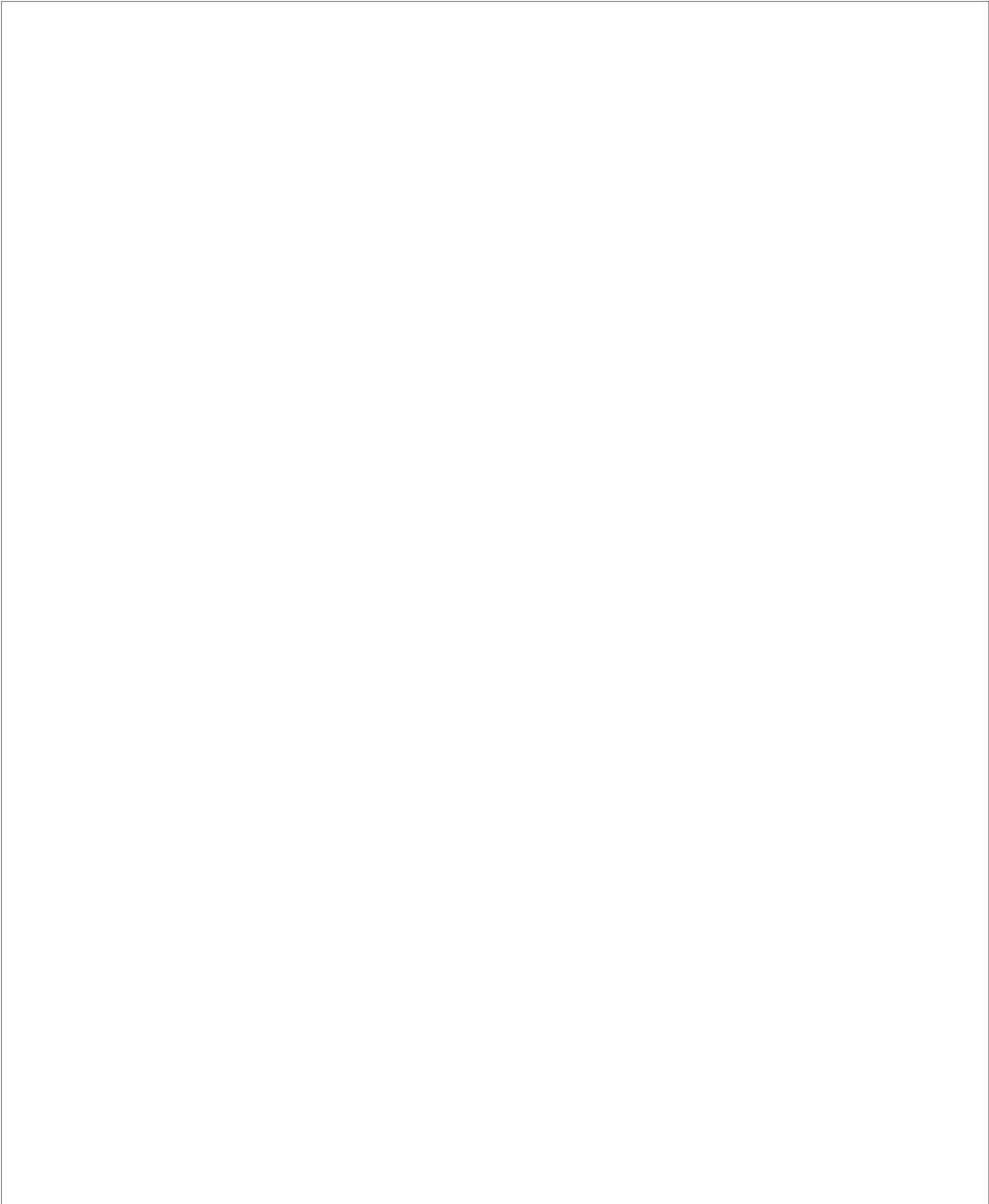
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NOTE

East Germany - West Germany: The first "unofficial" reaction of the East Germans to Chancellor Brandt's state of the nation address was predictably negative. The Bonn correspondent of East Germany's official news agency criticized Brandt both for what he said and for what he did not say. The Chancellor's statement that he will propose talks on a renunciation of force agreement was "unsatisfactory," according to the correspondent. In general, Brandt was scored for not discussing the draft treaty Ulbricht sent to Bonn in December. The East German party's politburo is scheduled to meet on Saturday in an extraordinary session, and presumably then will prepare Pankow's official reply for Ulbricht to announce in his press conference on Monday.

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